

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Digital Repository

---

Volume 20

Number 6 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.20, no.6

Article 3

---

1940

## Behind Closed Doors in Appliance Research

Catherine Raymond

*Iowa State College*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Raymond, Catherine (1940) "Behind Closed Doors in Appliance Research," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 20 : No. 6 , Article 3.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol20/iss6/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

# Behind Closed Doors in Appliance Research

*Catherine Raymond reports on work of graduate students in the Household Equipment Department*

**F**IVE graduate students in the Household Equipment Department are working on research problems toward master's degrees. Margaret Doughty has been working since last year to find a time and temperature necessary for satisfactory baking of varying oven loads.

Since it is original work on this particular problem it has been necessary for Miss Doughty to make up her own method of procedure. She has worked entirely with biscuits, loading cookie sheets with from eight to 48 biscuits, using the same length of time and temperature in all experiments.

The degree of brownness to which the biscuit has baked indicates variations caused by different size loads, all determinations being relative. Miss Doughty chose this particular problem because the results have been desired for some time by the National Committee of Household Equipment at Washington, D.C., in the hope that a practical test may be provided research workers in household equipment.

Miss Doughty was graduated from Michigan State College, and after graduation spent five years in commercial demonstration work with household appliances. She hopes to complete her work in March and then teach. She is now teaching part time.

Margaret Woodrow is working on a joint major in applied mathematics and physics, but her research work is actually a phase of household equipment. She is trying to find an improved method for testing electric range units to determine their efficiency. If she is able to ascertain the absolute efficiencies, it will be possible to show manufacturers of pans that more heat is present in the unit than is utilized by the utensil.

Present testing methods have not been so fully developed as the physics department believes they would be, should Miss Woodrow's work prove successful. She received her degree of bachelor of arts at Drake University. She hopes to complete her work in March after which she plans to teach household equipment in a college or university.

Four women are commencing their work this quarter. Arlean Pattison plans to make a determination of the oven performance of the combination range, a range which may be operated with two different fuels, such as wood and coal or gas. Its principal use is in farm homes as it is convenient for use in both winter and summer.

Miss Pattison is checking empty as well as loaded ovens for speed of heating, retention of heat, evenness of browning, and capacity. The household equipment department has had a number of inquiries concerning this type of range from persons who desire an unbiased opinion.

This is not a new range, but persons are often confronted with the problem of deciding between a combination range or two separate ranges. If the results are favorable to the combination type it is quite pos-

sible that its use will be increased. Miss Pattison is a graduate of Texas State College for Women. Since her graduation she has taught four years, one year at Iowa State College. When her work is completed some time during this coming summer, Miss Pattison wants to return to teaching.

Ruth Pratt has chosen her subject for study from experiences she had while teaching school in Gadsden, Tennessee. Her visits to the homes of her students brought to her attention the great need for improvements in lighting facilities where electricity is not



*Staff members of this department are continually testing various equipment to determine its serviceability*

used. Despite the remarkable advances through the introduction of the TVA and the REA, there are any number of families who cannot afford the use of electricity even if it is available.

Miss Pratt will work on kerosene mantle lamps and kerosene and gasoline vapor pressure lamps in the hope of improving their illuminating ability. These lamps are now obtainable with the same appearance as modern electric lamps and may be wired.

Miss Pratt was graduated from the State Teachers College at Memphis, Tennessee after which she taught

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Alums

## in the News

**P**ositions accepted by Fall 1940 graduates are: Margot Bacon, secretarial work with the Association to Maintain Freedom in Livestock Marketing, Des Moines; Esther Louise Brown, teaching position at Moulton; Patricia Dunphy, home supervisor for the Farm Security Administration, LeMars; Betty Feyder, Texaco Oil Company, Sioux City; Pauline Hall, high school instructor, Blooming Prairie, Minn.

Lucile Holaday, Home Demonstration Agent apprentice in Extension Service, Ames; Frances McClure Gathmann, office of the Palmer Plumbing Company, Ames; Margaret Sauerberg, hospital training, Cornell Medical Center, New York City; Evelyn Thorson, home economics instructor, Ruthven.

Louise Logue, M. S. '40, is teaching foods at the University of Missouri. As director of home service for the Thermo-gas Company in Des Moines, Katherine Kratoska, '34, will organize a home service department and conduct cooking schools for dealers.

—Bette Simpson

## Equipment Research

(Continued from page 4)

for one year in a high school. She now works half time on agricultural experiment station research besides doing her own work.

Evelyn Sparks will test the relative abrasive effects of household cleaners. She will experiment on the common types of sink and range enamel with about fourteen different powders. Her experiments will be conducted with the aid of a mechanical device which will carry a cloth pad in a constant rotation over the surface of the enamel.

She hopes that her results will give useful comparative information. Following her graduation from the college of Idaho, Miss Sparks taught two years and did home service in Boise, Idaho. She was frequently called upon to aid women in their range problems, and one of the commonest questions was in regard to a recommended cleanser.

Since there were no scientific results to follow, many women have been misinformed on this subject and have done harm to their equipment unnecessarily. Upon the completion of work, Miss Sparks contemplates returning to the West to do commercial work.

Anna Wood is investigating various problems before she definitely decides upon a working problem. In the meantime, she is carrying a number of courses which will later supplement her research.

The Department of Household Equipment as a whole is carrying on a project on the operation efficiency of small electrical food mixers. They are trying to discover the best combination of bowls and beater blades as to shape and size through the mixing of mayonnaise and divinity.

Dr. Louise Peet, department head, is in charge of this investigation and is assisted by Ruth Pratt and advised by Miss Belle Lowe, advisor in the Foods and Nutrition Subsection. This project was initiated in 1938 and is to be completed in 1941.

*every day  
in  
every way...*

**the Union strives to  
serve you**

- *books and coffee*
- table tennis*
- coffee forums*
- music room*
- meeting rooms*
- commons*

# MEMORIAL UNION

*our college club*

**Schoeneman Brothers**

**LUMBER, MILL WORK**

**Sherwin-Williams**

**Paints and Varnishes**

Main and Northwestern

Phone 264